

GANG PLANNED A TRUST CITY.

U. G. I. LEASE WAS STEP TOWARD
CONTROL OF ALL UTILITIES.

Philadelphia Reformers Now to Work for
Municipal Ownership as Only Way of
Safety—John M. Mack Tells of the
Public Service Corporation Scheme.

PHILADELPHIA, May 28.—It was announced to-day that the issue of the City Party, comprising the regular reformers and also Mayor Weaver's following, in the campaign against the Philadelphia ring will be municipal ownership.

The battle for the gas works showed the committee of seventy and the Mayor that these companies, the United Gas Improvement, the Rapid Transit Company, the Philadelphia Electric Company, and the Keystone Telephone Company, are the strongholds of the machine, both for influence and for power, and that it is through these that the lawyers, the financiers, the business men of Philadelphia are held in the chains of the ring.

Revelations of a conspiracy aiming to unite in one corporation, to be known as the Public Service Corporation, all the public utilities and having as one of its objects the sale of the \$25,000,000 filtration plant not yet finished, showed the anti-ring men that the only way to destroy the machine and to prevent the forming of the city into an absolute trust was to sound the municipal ownership slogan and endeavor to bring under municipal control not only the gas works but the telephone companies, the electric lighting companies and the street railways.

Hostilities will be opened at once. On the floor of Council, Councillor Wilson H. Brown of Germantown, who ten days ago was a machine sub-leader of his ward although semi-independent in tendencies and now leader of the reform movement in the whole north and northwestern section of Philadelphia, will offer resolutions providing for the cancellation in 1907 of the existing lease of the U. G. I. Company, the raising of funds to pay it for the works under the present lease, and for the establishment of a municipal electric lighting plant to furnish all city lighting, a monopoly now enjoyed by the Philadelphia Electric Company, capitalized at \$25,000,000 and promoted by the machine.

Examination of the franchises by which the Rapid Transit Company holds its monopoly of the streets is being made by counsel not of Philadelphia engaged by the committee of seventy and the committee of nine and has shown that these franchises, supposedly granted in at least practical perpetuity, are not worth the paper they are written on. In each is a clause providing that the city may take over the lines at any time. If this clause would not hold, the legal opinion says that Philadelphia has never given over its right to eminent domain, granted to it not only by the common law but also by the present State Constitution.

An independent investigation is also being conducted by a committee of the Trades League, a central commercial organization made up of 2,270 firms numbering among them all the big points in the city.

TO SEEK POINTERS AHEAD.
John C. Winston, the chairman of the committee of Seventy, announced to-day that he had sold his home in Germantown and would sail for Europe within two weeks to make a complete study of municipal ownership in the model cities of Manchester and Glasgow.

Chairman Winston said also that the City Party would extend itself from a city to a State organization, throwing all its weight upon the election of members to the Legislature, with the object of removing the "Ripper" bill, by which future Mayors of the city are shorn of power, and with the further object of securing the election of a United States Senator of its own choosing.

"For one," he said, "I will stay in this fight until the end, and the end is a long way off. Our first fight will be for the election of Sheriff. Between this election and that of the Mayor, two years hence, we will have an opportunity to elect members of the Legislature. We are going into this part of the game with all the power of which we are capable, and we want the Mayor who is to be elected to have the appointment of all his directors."

"In all our fights our slogan will be honest government and municipal ownership. We have talked this idea of municipal ownership over at great length and some of the members of the committee have expressed an aversion to it, but I believe that it is the only ideal condition."

"Philadelphia's right to control the management of the gas works before the lease was given to the U. G. I. The city had control of the works for a long time previous to that and everything went wrong. Complaints were not attended to, the different plants needed repairs and finally the city officers admitted that there was no money in the treasury with which to pay for improvements. Then they suggested the lease."

"We now know, however, that this was all a plot, that the gang had been dickered with the Dolan outfit for a long time and that they decided that this was the best way to disgust the public and open the way for a corporation to take charge. If the officials had acted honestly they could have made the plant pay just as well as the United Gas Improvement Company makes it pay to-day."

"The city can regain control of the gas works in 1908. The revenues from the plant are enormous, and even if the city had to contract a debt to redeem the plant the money would soon be recovered. An expert, equal to Thomas Dolan in cunning and business ability, could be engaged for at least \$20,000 a year and he could run the plant in the same manner as it is being run now."

"All the public service corporations in this city, to my mind, could be controlled by the city advantageously."

MACK TELLS ON THE GANG.
John M. Mack, promoter of the asphalt trust and now its receiver, kicked out by the ring and ousted by them from the Keystone Telephone Company, promoted by him to fight the Bell Telephone Company, held up and relieved of his holdings in Philadelphia Electric, which he also promoted, and hanging on by his teeth to the Rapid Transit Company, of whose councils he was once a dominant figure, has given full details of the projected Public Service Corporation to the reformers. He wants revenge and incidentally the idea of ultimate profit has some effect.

For years the project has been steadily

taking shape. When John M. Mack went to Harrisburg four years ago and secured from the Legislature franchises for surface, subway and elevated lines on every street in Philadelphia, franchises afterward passed by ring Councils and signed by a ring Mayor in the face of a \$2,500,000 offer by John Wanamaker, the first step toward the Public Service Corporation was taken.

In regard to the following steps were to be taken:

The city was to be pushed into bankruptcy by extravagant expenditures until nothing would be left for it but to sell its gas and waterworks.

The great filtration plant, now being built by Jim McNichol, Durham's chief lieutenant, and practically equal to him in ruling power, was to be the first to go.

The city was forced to the wall quicker than the leaders had calculated, and the second step, the granting of a lease practically in perpetuity to the gas company, without the clause that hampered the U. G. I. in the present one, was decided upon.

Following this was to come the merger of Philadelphia Electric, with its monopoly of street lighting, and the Keystone Telephone Company. Then the United Gas Improvement was to merge with this new company.

Following this step, the waterworks were to be sold to the same syndicate for a part of what they had cost the city. This action was to be taken upon the ground that the filtration plants were very defective, which is literally true even now, that the city did not have money enough to make them perfect and that the city must have the money or else the tax rate would be raised.

Then the men behind the United Gas Improvement-Philadelphia Electric-Keystone merger were to bid and secure the filtration plant.

Finally the Rapid Transit Company with its blanket franchises was to come in. With Thomas Dolan, Randall Morgan, P. A. B. Widener, George Elkins, W. W. Gibbs as financial managers; Israel W. Dushan, United States Senator, Boies Penrose, Contractor James McNichol, as political members, and David H. Lane, politician with corporate affiliations, as representative of the corporation interests in city and State machines, the Public Service Corporation was, says Mack, to bind the city hand and foot.

MAYOR'S DEVOTIONS INTERRUPTED.

Mayor Weaver was forced to interrupt his religious devotions to-day to talk gas lease. He attended both morning and afternoon services of the Temple Baptist Church, Toga, of which he has long been a member and teacher of the Bible class. He got an ovation on both occasions.

Before the Sunday school settled down to the study of the lesson Supt. Fraley made a brief address congratulating the Mayor on his victory in the gas lease fight. In reply the Mayor thanked the church for their loyalty and said:

"This has been entirely a victory of the people. Too much credit has been given to me. It was a victory, a magnificent victory for the people."

"But existing in victory, splendid as it has been, we must not for a moment imagine our task has been accomplished. We shall have a long and probably a tedious fight before us. But with the help of God, the people will eventually come out victorious."

WHITEWASHING THE PARK.

Supt. Nelson Begins on the Naked Rocks—Trees Still Unpainted.

A new scheme for decorating Central Park has appeared on the west side of the reservation, where a sea coat of white wash covers the nakedness of some of the rocks.

The artist apparently has been at work only for a day or two, to judge from the small number of rocks that have been painted. Those that have been covered with whitewash, however, are the most conspicuous features of the landscape in that part of the park.

A park laborer who was found near by yesterday was asked who was responsible for the innovation.

"Supt. Nelson ordered it done yesterday," the man said.

The laborer was asked if the park trees also were to be whitewashed. He had not heard that they were.

Several thousand children who went in May parties to the Green in Central Park on Saturday had obtained permits from the department to go to that particular lawn and were having a fine time in romping upon the grass when the police ordered them to leave the Green and go to the small ball ground near the carousel. The policemen said they had received orders from Supt. Nelson.

There were already many children on the ball ground and those from the Green made a crowd of about 10,000. The children were jammed upon the lawn in such numbers that it was impossible for them to play.

The reason given for not observing the permits was that the superintendent wanted to permit boys to play ball on the Green. It has not been customary to allow ball playing on that lawn on Saturdays in May. The Green has been reserved for May parties.

John F. Nelson, Superintendent of Parks, was before his appointment to the post, serving dispossession papers as a marshal in the Third District Municipal Court.

WIND, HAIL AND RAIN.

Queens County and a Part of Kings Struck Up—House Gears Down.

Thunder and lightning, hail, rain and wind came in from over Jamaica Bay at 4:30 P. M. yesterday and had sport with most of Queens county and the districts of Bushwick, East New York, Flatlands and Canarsie in Kings. It never touched the downtown part of Brooklyn at all.

In East New York the wind was strong enough to blow down an almost finished three-story frame house at 185 Georgia avenue. James Donnelly of Woodhull, who was in the building, felt it rock and escaped just in time. Some people in the street were running for shelter from the rain and hail had close calls. Policeman Brown heard that two men had been buried in the wreck, so he called out the rescue of the Cleator avenue station.

Yachtmen in Jamaica Bay had an unpleasant quarter of an hour. Then the sun came out and the storm ended as suddenly as it had come on.

39 More Arrests for Car Bowdism on Coney Island.

The car rowdies, who make life miserable for decent folks in the car leaving Coney Island, were so active last night that thirty of them were locked up in the Coney Island police station before midnight. Arrests were still being made at that hour and the police intended to keep up the work as long as there were any rowdies to arrest.

DID SINK AN AMERICAN SHIP.

FLEET'S ACTION CONFIRMED AND
RUSSIA IS ASKED TO EXPLAIN.

President Takes Prompt Measures—Rumor That Rojstvensky Destroyed the Ship in Fear That She Would Betray His Whereabouts—May Cause a Crisis.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

TOKIO, May 28.—The Ministry of Marine announces that there are positive indications that vessels of the Baltic fleet attacked and sank an American steamer near Formosa last Friday. The crew were saved.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—A serious situation between Russia and the United States is threatened by the reported sinking of an American merchant steamer by the Russian Baltic fleet off Formosa about May 20. The report was officially transmitted to the State Department early to-day by Lloyd C. Griscom, United States Minister at Tokio, and an inquiry was immediately directed by President Roosevelt. Acting Secretary of State Loomis, after a conference with the President, telegraphed Ambassador Meyer at St. Petersburg, instructing him to make a full investigation there, obtaining any information or reports the Russian Admiralty may have on the affair. Mr. Griscom is very active at Tokio in seeking information and further advice from him are expected soon.

If the report be true the action of the Russian fleet may lead to a very delicate situation between Russia and the United States. It is quite probable that the Russian Government has some news of the incident, as Admiral Rojstvensky was in touch with cable lines after the sinking of the vessel occurred, both at the Saddle Islands, where a score or more of his vessels remained for several days, and at Wosung, the port of Shanghai. From there he would probably send a report of his intentions and of what had already occurred during his trip northward from the China Sea. The inquiry which has been instituted will be thorough, as it is the intention of this Government to go clear to the bottom of the incident. If it is true that the Russians sank the American vessel, or if any of Rojstvensky's ships even unwarrantedly fired upon her, reparation will undoubtedly be asked for.

No details of the reported affair have been received by the Government from any source, and the name of the vessel alleged to have been sunk is not known. Advice received here from Russian sources, but not officially confirmed, say that the American merchantman was sunk by the Russian fleet to prevent her from furnishing information as to Rojstvensky's whereabouts. If this statement proves to be correct, and it comes from a quarter which indicates that it is authentic, the incident is even more serious. The first supposition here was that the vessel had probably attempted to run away from the Russians, perhaps because she had contraband of war aboard intended for the Japanese, and the claim that she had tried to escape might be regarded as an extenuating circumstance in Russia's behalf when the matter became an international issue.

But to sink a vessel flying the flag of a neutral Power on the theory that she might disclose valuable military information to the enemy is a different matter. The end said to have been desired by the Russians might just as well have been accomplished by making the American merchantman a temporary captive and attaching her to the Russian fleet.

The information thus far received of the occurrence is too meager and indefinite, however, to form the basis of any fixed opinion, and officials are not inclined to indulge in speculation. That the affair is regarded as important is shown by the prompt action of President Roosevelt, who did not deem it necessary to wait for details before calling on the Russian Government for such information as it possessed. It is admitted here that there might have been unusual circumstances to justify the reported radical action of Admiral Rojstvensky, but the assertion is made that his explanation must be exceedingly clear, and his excuse exceptional, to prevent the matter from becoming a dangerous issue between Russia and the United States.

In a measure the alleged sinking of an American steamer places the United States in the attitude of England when the British North Sea fishing fleet was fired on by Rojstvensky's warships off the Dogger Bank. In that case the Russians pleaded that they had mistaken the fishing vessels for hostile ships, and this excuse permitted an adjustment of the affair by an international court without a resort to hostilities. The sinking of neutral merchantmen by vessels of the Russian volunteer fleet was also adjusted through diplomacy, because it was shown that these merchantmen had contraband of war aboard and were thus liable to drastic treatment. In the present instance, however, granted that an American vessel was sunk deliberately by Russian warships because of the fear that she would give military information that would be useful to the Japanese, the situation is different and will require the most delicate handling to prevent trouble.

COMPROMISE WITH CHINA.

Russian Warships to Leave Wosung, but Transports Will Remain.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

SHANGHAI, May 28.—It is stated that the insistence of the Chinese authorities that the Russian vessels at Wosung leave that port has ended in a compromise. The transports will be allowed to remain, but the vessels belonging to the volunteer fleet will go to a French or German port.

UNIQUE WEDDING PRESENTS.

Silver, cut glass, bronzes, hall clocks, electroliers, Marmod, Jaccard & King, at Number 400 Fifth Avenue. Catalog of jewelry, etc., free—Ad.

BLAZE IN DOMINION LINER.

The Hamilton Races Back to Norfolk With Burning Cotton in Her Hold.

NORFOLK, Va., May 28.—The Old Dominion steamship Hamilton, Capt. Boaz, returned here to-day with a dangerous fire in her forward hold. She is one of the fine passenger steamships of the line, but she started to New York this morning as an extra steamer for freight.

She carried 4,000 bales of cotton in the hold where the fire occurred and a great cargo of vegetables and tobacco. There were no passengers. When the Hamilton was outside the Virginia capes, the fire was discovered. The steam and water which were turned on immediately had little effect, so Capt. Boaz raised the ship thirty miles back to her dock. She was then sent out to low water and Merritt & Chapman tugs are unloading the burning cotton. The insurance agent here has taken charge of the vessel to save the cargo. The vessel may not be seriously impaired as the fire was confined to the hold.

MME. SCHUMANN-HEINK WEDS

The Singer Married to William Rapp, Jr., in Chicago on Saturday.

CHICAGO, May 28.—In the interval between the matinee and evening performances of the "Lucky Lottery" yesterday Mme. Schumann-Heink was married to William Rapp, Jr., son of William Rapp, editor of the "State Zeitung." The ceremony took place at 5:30 o'clock at 854 Fullerton avenue, the residence of the Rev. Rudolph A. John, pastor of St. Paul's German Lutheran Church. The only witnesses were two members of the company, John C. Slavin, the comedian, and his wife, known to the stage as Edith Burbank.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Rapp drove to the home of the Rapp family, 230 Cass street, for dinner. Mme. Schumann-Heink and her husband bade farewell to Chicago to-day, going East with the company. They will be two weeks en route to New York, where, after a week's engagement, they will sail for Europe to spend their honeymoon at the singer's country place near Dresden, Saxony.

CORTELYOU WILL SOON RETIRE

And Name Harry S. New as Vice-Chairman of Republican National Committee.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Postmaster-General Cortelyou will soon announce his retirement from the chairmanship of the Republican national committee. He is now endeavoring to adjust some differences among the Republicans of Louisiana over the selection of that State's representative in the national organization. The matter has given Mr. Cortelyou a little more trouble than he expected, but a settlement is now in sight.

In accordance with a decision reached some months ago, Mr. Cortelyou will, just before his retirement, name Harry S. New of Indiana as vice-chairman. Mr. New will be in charge of the State's committee until it is reorganized three years hence.

MAY MAKE ARKANSAS PAY UP.

New York the Plaintiff in Suit for Redemption of Repudiated Bonds.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 28.—Information reached Little Rock to-day that an effort would be made shortly to compel the State to redeem the State bonds that were repudiated by the Fishback amendment to the State Constitution of 1892.

This time the State of New York will be the plaintiff. The bonds repudiated by the Fishback amendment aggregate \$9,725,546.

PISTOL IN A DRUG STORE.

Proprietor Would Not Give Up Money and Was Knocked Down.

AUGUST Zoeller, the elderly owner of a drug store at 942 Summit avenue, Jersey City, was alone in his store at 10:30 o'clock last night when a poorly dressed man entered and asked for toothache drops.

Zoeller turned his back on the man to get what he asked for, and when he turned around again he was gazing into the muzzle of a revolver that looked as big as a cannon. "I want all the money you have in the place and I want it quick," said the man behind the gun.

Zoeller made no attempt to move but he did shout as loud as he could. The highwayman reached over and whacked the druggist on the head with the butt end of his pistol. Zoeller fell and the highwayman ran out of the store and disappeared.

Zoeller had three scalp wounds. He gave the police a good description of his assailant.

SCORES OF HITS OF 21 SHOTS.

Naval Apprentice Makes a New Record for the American Navy.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 28.—Kempthorne Scott, naval apprentice, first class, on board the torpedo boat Preble, is said to have established a new record for the American Navy on Thursday last while at practice with a six-pounder Hotchkiss gun.

At a distance of 1,000 yards while the Preble was steaming ten knots per hour, Scott scored nineteen hits out of twenty-one shots at a floating target.

RAIDERS HAD NARROW ESCAPE.

Mistchenko Saved His Force by a Brilliant Charge.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28.—The newspapers this evening say that Gen. Mistchenko in his recent raid captured a Japanese cash box containing 3,780 yen. They also reported insignificant skirmishing and said that the general position of the armies is unchanged.

An unofficial report states that Gen. Mistchenko suffered many casualties in withdrawing his force, which only escaped by a brilliant charge. The Japanese strongly intercepted his retreat. The Japanese losses were 500 killed and wounded, besides the prisoners taken.

COUNT CASSINI'S SUCCESSOR EXPECTED TO SAIL FOR THIS COUNTRY ON JUNE 28.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Baron Rosen, the newly appointed Ambassador from Russia to the United States, who is to succeed Count Cassini, will probably sail for this country from Cherbourg on June 28. Count Cassini has been informed that Baron Rosen can start at that time, and in all probability will sail before Count Cassini early in July.

Count Cassini will go immediately to Europe and will proceed to Madrid, his new post, in the fall.

TOGO SINKS RUSSIAN SHIPS.

After First Battle Fleets Engage in Running Fight.

THE BORODINO GOES DOWN.

Five Other Russian Vessels Also Reported Lost.

Japan Claims Victory, but Holds Back All Details of the Battle in Tushima Straits—Secrecy Arouses Suspicion That All Is Not Well With the Japanese Fleet—Chinese Reports That a Second Battle Has Taken Place—Chefoo Hears That Togo Is in Pursuit of the Russians—Russia Has No News of an Engagement and Officials Are Skeptical.

Special Cable Dispatches to THE SUN.

CHIFUO, May 28.—British naval officers here have received reports that the Russian fleet was defeated and dispersed in the Straits of Tushima, and that the Japanese fleet is pursuing.

It is stated that a Russian battleship was sunk and other vessels were damaged.

TSINGTAI, May 28.—According to a Chinese telegram, another naval fight is on near Oshima. It is believed that this engagement is on a larger scale than the one in the Straits of Tushima.

It is not stated whether the Oshima referred to is in Hokkaido or the Loochoo Islands.

It is reported that the Japanese have lost one cruiser and ten torpedo boats.

TOKIO'S SILENCE.

TOKIO, May 28.—The censorship is refusing to allow the transmission of despatches giving any information concerning the fight between the Japanese and Russian fleets, and the Government is maintaining, as usual, the strictest secrecy regarding the engagement.

TOKIO, May 28.—Evening—Throughout the day the Government shut all sources of news which would substantiate or dispose of the numerous rumors of a naval engagement. The censorship on the newspapers is as complete as far as naval operations are concerned as are the restrictions on the telegraphs and the despatches of correspondents.

The Ministry of Marine promises to give out information as soon as its publication is advisable. It refuses even to encourage inquiries to hope for a victory. Its justification is that nothing that could possibly be of value to the enemy must be circulated.

RUSSIANS SKEPTICAL.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28.—While foreigners are excited over the rumors of a naval battle the citizens here are ignorant of any fight having occurred. The Ministry of Marine professes to have received nothing showing that a battle has taken place.

The officials when questioned smiled politely at the report that the Japanese had won a victory, and said they had no reason to believe it. They spoke with confident optimism of the result whenever Admiral Rojstvensky might meet the enemy.

No newspapers have printed anything about a battle.

PARIS, May 28.—A despatch from Rome states that the Italian Government has received a despatch from Chefoo stating that the engagement between the Russian and Japanese fleets was disastrous to both fleets. The losses were frightful. Every Russian ship was damaged.

BATTLE OFF WOSUNG.

LONDON, May 29.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Shanghai says that the firing of big guns was heard outside of Wosung, about ten miles from Shanghai, on Saturday morning. A two funneled cruiser entered Wosung on Sunday morning, but soon left.

It is reported that sixty-five vessels of the Baltic fleet are south of the Saddle Islands. There were thirty-three Japanese warships in the north channel of the Yangtze River on Sunday.

A Shanghai despatch says that the cruiser from Vladivostok took part in the engagement.

An English firm in St. Petersburg has received a telegram stating that the Japanese were victorious, but nobody believes it.

There is great excitement in Shanghai. All the warships are cleared for action.

RUSSIAN FLEET WAS DIVIDED.

Numerous press telegrams from Tokio report that the battle occurred on Saturday. None of the correspondents was able or allowed to give the result except a report. There are no reliable details from any source of the strength of the forces engaged. Many despatches refer to the supposed division of the Russian fleet into two or three squadrons, taking different routes.

The Tokio correspondent of the Telegraph says the Russians were first sighted at 8 o'clock in the morning approaching Tushima Island. It is believed that the squadron included six first-class ships. They were under cover of a fog, which, however, lifted, and the Russians retired. It is stated that twenty-one other vessels

were near. On Saturday in the Japan Sea there was intermittent fog and sunshine, a high wind and a rough sea.

A telegram from Shanghai received in Tokio states that Japanese warships arrived in the offing of Wosung at 9 o'clock on Saturday and attacked a Russian detached squadron. The result is not stated.

A Tokio despatch says it has been discovered that the Baltic fleet coaled off the coast of Luzon on May 22. They cruised about to the north of Luzon on May 23 and transferred large quantities of bunker coal from the colliers. Then Admiral Rojstvensky decided to divide his fleet into several parts. He passed through the Bashee Straits and steamed northeast. On May 25 the Russians were southwest of the Loochoo Islands. The main squadron went to Tushima Straits.

HONGKONG, May 28.—The British squadron here has been ordered north.

JAPAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Official information received in Washington to-day from American agents in Japan indicates that Admiral Togo's Japanese fleet has achieved a victory over the Russian Baltic fleet, the last hope and resort of the St. Petersburg Government. The news is vague and lacking in details, and in its most definite form was contained in this telegram dated yesterday from Lloyd C. Griscom, the United States Minister at Tokio.

"Japanese Government announces that their fleet engaged the Baltic squadron this afternoon in Straits of Tushima, which were held. Cannonading was heard from the shores."

Beyond this brief and somewhat uncertain message, in which there is only the suggestion that the Japanese have been victorious, the Washington Government has nothing to give it a clear idea of the outcome of what was probably the greatest naval engagement of modern times.

It did receive a report from Charles B. Harris, the American Consul at Nagasaki, Japan, saying that it was rumored there that the Japanese had sunk the battleship Borodino, four other fighting ships and a repair vessel, but Consul Harris sent the information only as a rumor, and it has not been officially confirmed to this Government.

There is enough in Mr. Griscom's despatch to indicate that the Japanese Government has not received any official account from Admiral Togo. The last sentence, "Cannonading heard from the shores," suggests that the information came from some source on land and not from the fleet itself.

The peculiar wording of the despatch makes the exact outcome of the fight something of a mystery. In view of the absence of any mention of the condition of any vessels of the Russian and Japanese fleets, there is nothing to show that Admiral Togo has accomplished more than to hold his own. It is plain, however, that he was not defeated, but it is not clear that he prevented the Russian fleet from escaping to Vladivostok.

The Japanese Minister received news which he said was of an indefinite character, but indicated that the engagement had resulted favorably to the Japanese.

At the Russian Embassy absolutely nothing has been received and nothing is expected, for the reason, it was explained, that the Japanese have control of all of the cable lines to which news of the fight might be carried at this time. Officials of the embassy are pleased over the lack of details of the engagement, as they assert it means that the Japanese have nothing of a favorable character to transmit.

The vague character of the news which has reached Washington leaves official circles in great doubt as to the outcome of yesterday's fight. The opinion generally expressed is that if the Japanese have won any great victory the facts and details would have been made known to the world very quickly. If any of the Russian ships have been able to break through toward Vladivostok it is expected news will be forthcoming from that point soon.

PEACE MAY FOLLOW THIS BATTLE.

In Government and diplomatic circles the greatest interest is shown in the result of the engagement, which is considered by nearly everybody to be either the beginning of the end, if the Japanese have won a victory, or the turning point of the war, if Rojstvensky has vanquished his opponent.